

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SP-02 IO-03 CPR-01 SY-02 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1832

INFO PZGEMBASSY SUVA

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FROM AMBASSADOR FOR EA/ANP SQUIRE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FJ, EEC, OVIP

SUBJ: ATTENDANCE AT 31ST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY FIJIAN PRIME

MINISTER: POSSIBLE CALL BY PRIME MINISTER ON PRESIDENT

FORD

REF: (A) SUVA 832, (B) SUVA 842, (C) WELLINGTON 2889,

(D) HALL TO SQUIRE LETTER OF JUNE 11, 1976

1. I WANT TO ADD MY OWN VERY STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT
FIJIAN PRIME MINISTER RATU SIR KAMISESE MARA BE RECEIVED
BY PRESIDENT FORD IN EARLY OCTOBER WHEN RATU MARA WILL
BE IN THE UNITED STATES TO ADDRESS THE U.N. GENERAL
ASSEMBLY. PERHAPS THE DIRECTORATE CAN ENLIST THE HELP OF
UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS HABIB, WHO IS

PERSONALLY AWARE OF RATU MARA'S POLITICAL STATURE FROM
A VISIT THE UNDER SECRETARY PAID TO FIJI LAST SPRING.

2. DURING THE PAST YEAR THE UNITED STATES HAS MOVED

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PRECERRIY CLOSER TO FIJI: THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN

APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF THE EAST-WEST CENTER, UNDER SECRETARY HABIB WAS CORDIALLY RECEIVED IN SUVA BY RATU MARA, AND THREE AMERICAN MINESWEEPERS WERE SOLD TO THE FIJI AS THE NUCLEUS OF THAT COUNTRY'S NAVY. WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC AND SOVIET DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH FIJI AND WESTERN SAMOA AND PARTICULARLY WITH SUBSTANTIAL SOVIET OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE TO TONGA AND WESTERN SOMOA, IT IS APPARENT THAT SOVIET-CHINESE RIVALRY HAS SPILLED OVER INTO THESE PARTS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC. RATU MARA IS VERY FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES AND PERHAPS THE MOST PERSUASIVE SOUTH PACIFIC STATESMAN WARNING ABOUT THE DANGERS OF SOVIET PENETRATION OF THIS AREA, AS DEMONSTRATED ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO AT THE NAURU MEETING OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM. THERE RATU MARA PUBLICLY AND PERSUASIVELY WARNED WESTERN SAMOAN PRIME MINISTER EFI AGAINST ACCEPTING SOVIET OFFERS OF AID. MONFCVZXK#RATU MARA HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

FOR THE AFRICAN/CARIBBEAN/PACIFIC GROUP CONNECTED TO THE EEC THROUGH THE LOME CONVENTION (REFTEL A). PAPUA NEW

GUINEA, TONGA, AND WESTERN SAMOA INVITED RATU MARA TO ACCEPT THIS HONOR ON THEIR BEHALF.

3. FINALLY, RATU MARA VERY MUCH DESIRES TO CALL ON PRESIDENT FORD AND KNOWS THAT HIS REQUEST WAS TURNED DOWN LAST YEAR. A SHORT CALL ON THE PRESIDENT THIS YEAR

WOULD ENHANCE RATU MARA'S PRESTIGE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AREA AT A TIME WHEN U.S. PURPOSES WOULD BE SERVED THEREBY. SELDEN

NOTE BY OC/T: WELLINGTON 3004, #PARAGRAPH 2 AS RECEIVED, CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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